

ROCKFORD (III.) STAR

Circ.: m. 45,565

S. 59,427

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Date: NOV 27 1952

RIGHT BOWER

The shape of the executive department under President-elect Eisenhower has begun to emerge quite clearly, particularly with the appointment of Gov. Sherman Adams of New Hampshire as assistant to the president. Eisenhower is a firm believer in staff work; his two chiefs-of-staff in Europe, Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, in world war 2, and Gen. Albert M. Gruenther, in NATO, were the core men around whom revolved the immense department of military organization.

The parallels to think of in connection with such presidential "right bowers" are Colonel House, under Wilson; Harry Hopkins, under Franklin Roosevelt; and Clark Clifford, in the first Truman term. But Eisenhower's presidential assistant would assume a much more specific role in the chain of command, with an open voice in policy.

Thus, Sherman Adams's appointment becomes probably the most important Eisenhower has thus far made. He will be far more than buffer, trouble-shooter, and confidant. He will co-ordinate the cabinet and the presidential bureaus, such as budget, security council, security resources board, council of economic advisers. And it may be expected that these presidential boards will be stronger in personnel to meet the demands put upon them by the chief of staff for Eisenhower. They have been very loosely run under Truman.

So what is in prospect is a tightly knit, working executive department, with very little regard for

political "it," but an extremely high respect for competence, skill and getting things done. The Eisenhower executive machinery will be in direct contrast to the Truman regime.

Adams goes into the presidential assistant post with both assets and liabilities. As governor of New Hampshire, he did what Adlai Stevenson sought to do in Illinois. He is a middle-of-the-road man, with a typical New England respect for thrift and hard work. His austerity program in New Hampshire showed a decent respect for the opinions of the taxpayers. Politically he is shrewd; some have said he is tricky, but he has never been accused of lack of loyalty to man or cause he took up. His political methods have been called a throw back to the old New England school of politics. He has very little following in the middle west, although he has never been as blunt as his fellow New Englander, Senator Moses, who called us the sons of the wild jackass.

The authority which Adams will wield in the executive department points up a weakness in the Eisenhower appointments thus far — a failure to recognize the middle west. This region's obvious turn will be to the legislative wing, headed by Senator Taft, unless the executive warms up to the middle west to some degree.

For the developing executive machinery — a machinery dedicated to hard work and the closest gearing of departments — the whole country must have the most profound respect. What remains to be worked out is a little more political warmth, a little less brittleness.